



SRC Calendar:

- Monday, March 14
- **8 am – 5 pm:** Session/Caucus (possible evening)
 - **8 am – 5 pm:** DOT centennial display (Columbia Room)

- Tuesday, March 15
- **7:15 am:** Tuesday Morning Fellowship (JAC ABC)
 - **8 am – 5 pm:** Session/Caucus (possible evening)

- Wednesday, March 16
- **8 am – 5 pm:** Session/Caucus (possible evening)
 - **8 am - 5 pm:** DOT centennial display (Columbia Room)
 - **11:30 am – 1:30 pm:** Innovations in State Government award ceremony (Rotunda)
 - **5 pm: Cutoff**
 - **5:30 pm: Leadership Media Availability** (Tentative)

- Thursday, March 17
- **7 – 9 am:** Farm Bureau reception (Rotunda and 3rd floor hallway – est. attendance 175)
 - **8 – 10 am:** House Natural Resources hearing (HHR D):
 - SB 5179 forest health (Morton)
 - SJM 8000 Ice Age Floods National Geologic Trail (Parlette)
 - **8 – 10 am:** Labor and Commerce hearing on outsourcing task force (SCR 8407, Shin – SHR 4, Live on TVW)
 - **8 am – 1 pm:** SEIU legislative day/rally (Capitol steps – est. attendance 120)
 - **10 am – 3 pm:** Federation of Private Career Schools and Colleges legislative day (Columbia Rm. – est: 50-75)
 - **Noon:** Legislative Ethics Board meeting (SHR 3)
 - **Noon – 12:30 pm:** Mark Morris High School Symphonic Choir performance (Rotunda – est. attendance 50)
 - **3:30 – 5:30 pm:** Ed committee work session and hearings (SHR 1, Live on TVW):
 - ESHB 1282 sex ed (Schual-Berke)
 - SHB 1708 dropout rates (Lovick)
 - **5:30 pm:** Minority Party (El Sarape – Westside)

- Friday, March 18
- **8 – 10 am:** House Ag hearing on SB 5723, giving asparagus exceptions to certain standards (Delvin, HHR A)
 - **9 am – 3 pm:** Pharmacy Day (Columbia Room, est. attendance 100)
 - **Noon – 1 pm:** R.A. Long High School Choir performance (Rotunda – est. attendance 50)
 - **1:30 – 3:30 pm:** House work session with State Patrol Chief John Batiste (HHR E, Live on TVW)

- Saturday, March 19
- **Town Hall weekend**
 - **11 am – 5 pm:** Olympia Movement of Justice and Peace rally (Capitol steps to Sylvester Park – est. attendance 500)
 - **Lincoln Day Dinners** (Pend Oreille, Stevens and Pacific counties)

- Sunday, March 20
- **Lincoln Day Dinner** (Lincoln County)



for Washington

Initiative 601:

Democrats clear the way to raise taxes by moving bill to gut I-601 out of committee...

Democrats said this week they expect to raise taxes, apparently rejecting the Republican-backed "priorities in government" process to balance the budget within current revenues. To clear the way for raising taxes, Senate Democrats on the Ways & Means Committee gave approval to **Senate Bill 6078**. This measure allows the Legislature to approve tax increases by a simple majority vote – instead of the two-thirds required under Initiative 601. The measure also switches the base for calculating allowable spending growth from a factor of population growth plus inflation to a personal income growth factor – a switch that allows spending to grow faster and higher.

For more information, check out the latest edition of *Budget Tidbits...just the facts* by visiting the SRC Web site.

SRC in the News:

- **On helping military families: Sen. Dave Schmidt**, R-Mill Creek, a staff sergeant in the Washington National Guard, said, "The issue of war is at the forefront of our minds. The fact we haven't had this many National Guard called up since World War II - and it is taking them from every corner of every community in every district in the state - brings it home." **Sen. Brad Benson**, R-Spokane, a member of the Air National Guard, said he'd heard of troops facing an eviction or court-ordered penalties upon their return - issues that could have been taken care of had they had not been serving. While it would not affect a significant number of people, the law would send a message that the state backs its military personnel. (*Evergreen Herald*, 3-6-05)
- **On slowing the state's minimum wage increases: Sen. Mike Hewitt**, R-Walla Walla, said the high minimum wage is partly to blame for job losses. Nevertheless, he struggled to get a hearing on the proposal this session. "It's dead for another year. We'll just keep losing jobs." (*Walla Walla Union Bulletin*, 3-8-05)